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# Soviets Claim 'Ex-CIA Aide' Is a Defector

Moscow (AP)—A man who identified himself as a former CIA agent named John Smith said in an article published in a Soviet newspaper yesterday that he defected to the Soviet Union because the U.S. is preparing "a new world catastrophe."

A U.S. embassy spokesman, asked to comment on the article, said: "I never heard of this John Smith. The only John Smith I know of was subverted by Pocahontas."

The article said that the agent spied for the Americans in the armed forces and Defense Ministry of India. The newspaper Literary Gazette said Smith was from Quincy, Mass., and now is a Soviet citizen living and working in Moscow. The news agency, Tass, even before the Literary Gazette appeared, summarized the article, the bulk of which was that Smith and his wife carried out operations in India some time after 1950. It did not say what became of Mrs. Smith.



John D. Smith  
In 1951 Photo

In Washington, the State Department confirmed that a John Discoe Smith worked for it in the 1950s, but disclaimed any knowledge that he has defected to the Soviet Union. Press officer Robert J. McCloskey said that Smith, now 40, was a communications clerk with the department from Oct. 29, 1950, to Dec. 29, 1959, when he resigned for what he said were personal reasons. McCloskey said there is no record that Smith "worked for anyone other than the Department of State as a communications clerk," and "there is no reason to

think he was ever employed by the CIA." He said Smith was last issued a passport in 1960.

The career of John Smith, as described by Tass, closely resembles that of a John D. Smith whose mother, Mrs. Thomas Kantola of Braintree, Mass., said: "That's not my boy. He works for the government, but I can't say more." Smith's mother said she gets "letters from him all the time." She said she had received one, mailed in Rome, "within a week." She said the letter noted that Smith was "traveling in

Europe," but she did not know whether it was on a pleasure trip or in connection with his work. She said that her son is married and that his wife and family are in the U.S.

Tass said Smith revealed names of Central Intelligence Agency operatives in India and told of bugging the code room in the embassy of an underdeveloped nation friendly to the Soviet Union. "Smith writes that the CIA had its agents among high-placed officers of the staff of the Indian army and in the Indian Defense Ministry," Tass reported. "John Smith declared that his wife told him about many secret agents of the CIA among high-ranking Indian military officers."